

FMC Corporation

Agricultural Chemical Group
1701 East Patapsco Avenue Box 1616
Baltimore Maryland 21203
(301) 355 6400

ORIGINAL
(Red)

June 29, 1983



SDMS DocID

2205017

Mr. Neil Swanson
Environmental Scientist
Waste Enforcement Section
Air and Waste Management Division (3 AW 22)
United States Environmental
Protection Agency
Region III
6th and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Re: Response to EPA Region III
Inquiry on Possible Formation
of Dioxins

Dear Mr. Swanson:

On June 20, 1983, FMC Corporation's Agricultural Chemical Group plant in Baltimore, Maryland received a letter dated June 15, 1983 from Region III of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, in which EPA Region III inquired as to certain information relative to the possible formation of dioxins at FMC's Baltimore plant in the course of manufacturing and handling practices over the years involving various organic chemicals. Among other things, EPA Region III's June 15, 1983 letter requests submission within ten days of receipt of the letter of a written report on the status of discussions with EPA Region III or on other action relative to the matters set forth in the letter. By the present letter, we are providing the report thus requested. In doing so, however, we do not intend to express any opinion as to the applicability of the statutory provisions referenced in the first paragraph of EPA Region III's letter or to any other statutory requirement for such a report. In response to the information requested in Attachment II of EPA Region III's letter, we are in the process of reviewing our files. We will be in a better position to respond further to this request after this review and will be in contact with you by July 10, 1983.

On Monday, June 20, 1983, a meeting was held at the Baltimore plant involving Peter Schaul and yourself from EPA Region III, myself and other FMC representatives, and representatives from your prime contractor (NUS Corporation), the City of Baltimore Health Department, and the State of Maryland Office of Environmental Programs. At that time there was an exchange of information concerning a product, Tetradifon ("Tedion"), manufacturing at FMC's Baltimore plant

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between 1957 and 1970. During the course of the meeting, there were discussions concerning the product, its related manufacturing facilities, disposal of wastes in connection with the manufacture and handling of the product and EPA Region III's letter of June 15, 1983. The meeting concluded with a brief plant tour to identify possible locations for sampling.

On the following day, June 21, 1983, the NUS Corporation representatives returned to the plant and obtained twelve (12) split spoon core samples from various locations throughout the plant site. All samples were split with our plant laboratory personnel.

It is our understanding that NUS will analyze these samples for dioxins as well as for the 129 "priority pollutants" and that the results of such analyses will be available to us in approximately four to six weeks.

If there are questions concerning this letter, or if additional information is required, please advise me (301/355-6400, Ext. 235).

Yours very truly,

D. W. Palmer

D. W. Palmer
Environmental Manager

DWP:ct

cc: Elkins W. Dahle, Jr.
City of Baltimore
Health Department
Bureau of Industrial Hygiene
111 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Art Caple -
Joseph Stang -
State of Maryland
Office of Environmental Programs
201 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

FMC Corporation

Agricultural Chemical Group
1701 East Patapsco Avenue Box 1616
Baltimore Maryland 21203
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FMC

July 7, 1983

Mr. Neil Swanson
Environmental Scientist
Waste Enforcement Section
Air and Waste Management Division (3AW22)
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
6th and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Re: Response to EPA Region III
Inquiry on Possible Formation of Dioxins

Dear Mr. Swanson:

This letter is to confirm my July 6th telephone conversation with Peter Schaul of EPA Region III.

Because of the difficulty in attempting to locate and review information, some of which dates back twenty-five (25) years, we have requested and Mr. Schaul has agreed to an additional ten (10) days in which to respond to the request for information contained in EPA Region III's letter of June 15, 1983.

If there are any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

D.W. Palmer
D. W. Palmer
Environmental Manager

DWP:ct

cc: Peter Schaul - EPA Region III

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JUN 15 1983

Mr. Darryll W. Palmer
Environmental Manager
FMC Corporation
1701 E. Patapsco Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21226

RE: FMC Corporation, Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Palmer:

This is a request for information from Region III of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") which the Agency needs to evaluate the possible release or threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants at the above referenced facility. This request is issued under statutory authority including, but not limited to, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act §§ 104(b) and (e), 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(b) and (e) (Supp. IV 1980) (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act § 3007, 42 U.S.C. § 6927 (1976 and Supp. IV 1980), and the Clean Water Act § 308, 33 U.S.C. § 1318 (1976 and Supp. IV 1980). Failure to respond within 10 working days from the date of receipt of this letter may subject you to the penalties provided in EPA's authorizing statutes. Under those statutes EPA is authorized to obtain information concerning releases and threats of release of hazardous substances, or possible imminent and substantial endangerment caused by hazardous wastes and pollutants.

EPA has reviewed your facility's history, manufacturing processes and use of certain organic chemicals and/or pesticides and as a result believes that there is a possibility that dioxins may have been formed as a by-product of these activities or may have been an impurity in some of the chemical intermediates or raw materials used at your facility. These materials and/or chemical products and their common contaminants, including dioxins, may be hazardous substances, hazardous wastes or pollutants. Furthermore, those chemicals may be present at the site, or may have been released to the environment, in quantities reportable under the Clean Water Act § 311 and CERCLA § 103, and we have reason to believe that if present these substances may be released in the future. Because of the serious nature of potential dioxin contamination,

EPA believes that investigations to determine whether or not any release of hazardous substances has occurred or has potential to occur should commence as soon as possible. We are therefore asking that appropriate persons from your staff contact Neil Swanson within five days of the receipt of this letter to schedule meetings to discuss the use and manufacture of the chemicals listed in attachments III and IV and site access for EPA and its contractors to obtain representative samples from the facility.

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You should notify EPA, in writing, within ten days from receipt of this letter describing whether you are already involved in discussions with EPA, state or local authorities, or are engaged in voluntary action. You should continue that activity and report the status of those discussions or that action in your letter. Please provide a copy of your letter to any other parties involved in those discussions.

In addition to the investigation conducted by EPA, the Agency hereby requests you answer the questions in Attachment II. As used therein, the term "documents" means writings (hand-written, typed or otherwise produced or reproduced) and includes but is not limited to any invoices, checks, receipts, correspondence, offers, contracts, agreements, manifests, licenses, permits, bids, proposals, policies of insurance, logs, minutes of meetings, memoranda, notes, calendar or diary entries, charts, maps, photographs, drawings, manuals, reports of analysis, analytical worksheets, chromatographs, studies, reports of scientific study or investigation, telegrams, teletypes, magnetic tapes, punch cards, recording disk, computer printout or other data compilations from which information can be obtained or translated. Your answers to these questions must be sent to EPA within twenty calendar days of your receipt of this letter.

EPA regulations governing confidentiality of business information are set forth in Part 2, Subpart B of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations. For any portion of the information submitted, you may assert a confidentiality claim in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b). If EPA determines that the information so designated meets the criteria set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 2.200, the information will be treated in accordance with 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. Your failure to assert a confidentiality claim in your response to this letter will constitute a waiver of that claim, and information may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice.

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Your reply to the request for information should be considered separate and distinct from that relating to participation in testing, sampling, or any subsequent response activities, if required, at the site. Both replies should be addressed to:

Mr. Neil Swanson
Environmental Scientist
Waste Enforcement Section
Air and Waste Management Division (3AW22)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
6th & Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

If you need further information on the nature and extent of releases or threatened releases you may contact Dr. Walter Lee, by phone at (215) 597-9405.

Sincerely yours,



Stanley L. Laskowski
Acting Regional Administrator